



BULLETIN

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Editorial

One of the wonderful characteristics of the bridge world is its tolerance. This comes in many forms. People of all nationalities, all religions, all colours and all shapes and sizes are welcomed. Long before it became politically-correct to do so, allowances were made for persons with disabilities, whether they were mobility-based or sensory-based. Nations which were mortal enemies and forbade their citizens associating with one another made an exception for bridge. When they didn't make an exception, those nations' representatives often played against each other anyway. Because bridge is both a cerebral and an emotional game, a wider range of behaviour is tolerated in the bridge world than would be acceptable in other endeavours. There are many more examples.

We thus laud the United States Bridge Federation for withdrawing all charges against the United States' Venice Cup-winning team for the Closing Ceremonies Incident in Shanghai. At those ceremonies, members of the US Team held up a hand-printed sign (about A4 size) saying, "We didn't vote for Bush." This created barely a ripple at the time, since, firstly, the sign was so small one had to be within three metres of it to be able to read it, secondly, hardly anyone cared a whit about it anyway. Not a single Chinese official or WBF representative remarked on it. In a two hour meeting between the President of the WBF and the IBPA Bulletin Editor the morning following the incident, M. Damiani did not mention, or even allude to, the incident. It truly was a non-incident.

Nevertheless, on October 15, the USBF saw fit to write a letter of apology to the Presidents of both the WBF and the Chinese Contract Bridge Association. Further, the USBF Board of Directors made "a complaint against the members of the 2007 Venice Cup USAI team...regarding their behavior..." The complaint was to be forwarded to the USBF President, requesting that she charge the members with, "Actions unbecoming a member..." and requesting a timely hearing. This was to be held in San Francisco the week of the Fall NABC.

It seemed that the USBF Executive was taking a hard line with the players, to the extent of offering them a plea bargain of a year's suspension, a year's probation and 200 hours of community service. If these conditions were rejected, the players were informed, tougher sanctions would be sought in the hearing in San Francisco.

Then, suddenly, for unspecified reasons, the USBF backed off. On November 20, a joint statement was issued, saying in part: "The United States Bridge Federation (USBF) and the players on the US Venice Cup world championship bridge team are pleased to mutually announce that we have resolved all issues relating to events that occurred at the closing ceremony of the 2007 World Bridge Championship in Shanghai. We all believe that it is in the best interests of bridge to put this behind us so that we can focus on playing the game we love. The USBF Board has dismissed all charges against the players on the Venice Cup team. The players of the USAI Venice Cup Championship team recognize that it is a legitimate request of the USBF, when sending teams to represent the United States, that all players refrain from using the stage for the Medal Ceremonies as a platform for anything other than receiving their medals.

Whatever the reason for the dropped charges, we are delighted that the USBF did so. It was the tolerant thing to do.

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Paul Soloway 1941-2007



Soloway with his wife Pam Pruitt

Bridge has lost one of the all-time greats, Paul Soloway, who died early last month from complications due to diabetes, heart failure and infection. Soloway won five Bermuda Bowls with four different partners and was second in two Bermuda Bowls and two Olympiad teams. He won 30 North American titles. Not only was Soloway many experts' choice as the world's best player, he was a true sportsman, always winning or losing with grace, and always congratulating the opponents when they won.

In recent years, as his health deteriorated, Soloway played through pain. He began competing to win his fourth world championship only 28 days after undergoing open heart surgery. On another occasion, in order to play in a national tournament in Cincinnati while undergoing treatment for a serious infection, every day he checked himself into - and out of - a nearby hospital. "Paul would spend two-thirds of the day in the hospital and a third of the day at the bridge table," said Bob Hamman. "We just glued him back together and sent him into battle. That's the way he was. He was a guy who only knew one way to play - that was all out."

Team captain Nick Nickell had this to say about Soloway: "The obituary in the New York Times told a story about Paul being saved from drowning at age three by Buggy Seigel at the home of George Raft. What was not mentioned was that Paul was Buggy Seigel's nephew. Paul truly loved to play bridge. A week before he passed away, he called me to tell me he was excited about coming to San Francisco to play in the Reisinger. He was fighting until the end, but his body didn't cooperate."

The Nickell team's coach, Eric Kokish: "When Paul, Bob and I first got together to work on system in 1998, Paul tried his best to convince Bob to play two-over-one with five-card majors, but Bob has always hated the idea of opening one of a minor on minimum-range balanced hands. I bided my time until the moment seemed propitious to suggest weak no trumps and then outlined its strengths and weaknesses. Bob said he'd sleep on it."

"The next day Hamman squashed the idea but conceded that he had been tempted. Paul told me privately that he would play three-card majors if he could play with Hamman. Paul was a student of the game and one of his great strengths was adapting to his partner's needs and mastering the most obscure nuances of the system he agreed to play. There was never any doubt that Paul knew the Hamman system better than Bob, but Paul also knew the treatments Bob was most likely to forget and went out of his way not to test him with those if there were an alternative."

"In his quiet way, Paul was the glue of the Nickell team, not only with his high level of skill but also with his ability to help each of his teammates feel that no deficit was too great and that the team would prevail."

That Soloway's death was notable even outside the bridge world is evidenced by obituaries in the premier newspapers in America, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, the Chicago Tribune and the Los Angeles Times.

IBPA President Emeritus and ex-ACBL Bulletin Editor Henry Francis had this to say: "Paul Soloway was a fierce warrior: just ask anyone who ever played against him. But he always had a kind word for fearful opponents who were facing him for the first time. He did not get into away-from-the-table battles with his peers. He accepted defeat amicably and triumph with modesty. He loved the game. While he was undergoing all the trauma of his last days, he told his wife Pam that he didn't want to live if he lost his mental faculties and could no longer play his favourite game. Paul's love of bridge, his sportsmanship, and his honest and friendly competitiveness always set the finest example for bridge players around the world."

In his New York Times obituary, Phillip Alder reported the following deal:

Dealer North. Both Vul.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|------------|---------|------------|
| ♠ 6 | ♥ A 7 6 3 | ♦ 9 7 5 4 | ♣ J 9 5 4 | ♠ 9 4 | ♥ J 10 8 2 | ♦ K J 3 | ♣ A K 10 2 |
| | | | | ♠ Q J 10 5 3 2 | ♥ Q 5 | ♦ 8 6 2 | ♣ Q 8 |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♠ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Soloway had excellent table presence, as was highlighted by the diagrammed deal from more than 20 years ago. Four spades was in theory impossible to make, but West tried a deceptive lead: the heart three.

East put in the heart ten, and South took the trick with his queen. Declarer immediately returned his remaining heart, and West would have defeated the contract if he had won with his ace and shifted to a minor. But thinking that South was sure to put in dummy's heart nine, West played low smoothly. Having none of it, Soloway called for dummy's king, winning the trick. After cashing the spade ace, declarer led a club from the board, East taking two tricks in the suit and playing a third round. South ruffed, led a spade to dummy's king and ruffed the heart nine. A diamond to dummy's ten ended played East. After winning with his jack, he had either to lead away from the diamond king or to concede a ruff-and-sluff.

How did Soloway guess hearts correctly? Because East had smoothly played the ten at trick one. Soloway felt that if East also had the heart ace, he would have given at least momentary consideration to winning it.

Barry Rigal reports this gem from the semifinals of the 1998 American International Trials.

Dealer East. EW Vul.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>♠ 9 8 ♥ 2 ♦ A K Q J 8 4 ♣ J 10 8 4</p> <p>♠ A ♥ Q 10 8 6 3 ♦ 10 9 7 3 ♣ A Q 9</p> | <p>♠ 6 4 2 ♥ K J 9 7 5 4 ♦ 5 2 ♣ K 2</p> <p>♠ K Q J 10 7 5 3 ♥ A ♦ 6 ♣ 7 6 5 3</p> |
|--|--|

Hamman and Soloway were East-West and Lew Stansby opened four spades with the South cards and played there. On a heart lead, declarer won in hand and naturally hastened to cash diamonds to discard clubs. Soloway as East ruffed the third diamond, and was over-ruffed; now declarer led a low trump from his hand. Hamman was in with the spade ace and now had to find the killing defence.

Hamman saw the necessity of shifting to a club, but made the inferior play of the club ace rather than a low club. Not to worry; Soloway unblocked the king under the ace, and now Hamman could cash the club queen and give his partner the club ruff for down one.

The game was let through at the other table when West played a passive diamond when in with the spade ace, and declarer was able to discard two clubs on the diamonds.

VI CHAMPIONS CUP

Mark Horton, London

Once a year the qualified teams meet in the European Club Championship. Commentating on the early rounds on Bridgebase I spotted a few gems, at least one of them a contender for the best-defended hand of the year.

When the champions of Hungary, Gamax, faced Poland's finest, Sygnity AZS, we saw, and not for the first time, the skill of the best-known Polish pair:

Dealer East. EW Vul.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ Q 5 3 ♥ Q 9 8 4 3 ♦ A Q J ♣ Q 2</p> <p>♠ K J 9 8 ♥ — ♦ 10 8 6 ♣ A 10 9 7 6 3</p> | <p>♠ A 7 4 2 ♥ J 10 6 2 ♦ 5 2 ♣ J 8 5</p> <p>♠ 10 6 ♥ A K 7 5 ♦ K 9 7 4 3 ♣ K 4</p> |
|---|---|

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Homonnay</i> | <i>Gromov</i> | <i>Winkler</i> | <i>Dubin</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♦ |
| Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass | 2 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

East led the five of diamonds and declarer won in hand and played the queen of hearts. That picked up the 4-0 trump break and with diamonds 3-2 declarer was home. Two spades went on the diamonds, so he was plus 450.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Zmudzinski</i> | <i>Macskasy</i> | <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Lakatos</i> |
| — | — | Pass | 1 ♦ |
| 1 NT ¹ | Double | 2 ♦ ² | Double |
| 2 ♠ | 3 ♥ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. 4-card major and longer minor
2. Pick a major

East led the eight of clubs and West won with the ace. In the twinkle of an eye the jack of spades was on the table. Declarer covered and East won and returned a spade, West winning and playing a third round, in practice ensuring a trump trick for East, plus 50 and 11 IMPs.

On the following deal, the lead was all-important, as is so often the case at this level of bridge. Try it as a problem before peeking at the complete deal...

Dealer South. NS Vul.

♠ 8 7 6 5 3 ♥ K J 10 8 ♦ 2 ♣ 8 5 4

You are North and see the following auction. Your lead?

| West | North | East | South |
|---------|----------|------------------|--------|
| Quantin | Piekarek | Bompis | Gotard |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 4 ♣ ¹ | Pass |
| 4 ♦ | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| 5 ♦ | Pass | 6 ♦ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. Diamonds

This was the full deal:

Dealer South. NS Vul.

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| ♠ 8 7 6 5 3 | ♠ A 9 4 |
| ♥ K J 10 8 | ♥ 7 4 |
| ♦ 2 | ♦ K J 10 6 3 |
| ♣ 8 5 4 | ♣ K 7 2 |
| ♠ K Q J | |
| ♥ Q 3 | |
| ♦ A Q 9 7 | |
| ♣ A Q 9 3 | |
| ♠ 10 2 | |
| ♥ A 9 6 5 2 | |
| ♦ 8 5 4 | |
| ♣ J 10 6 | |

With three low clubs being unattractive, no double of the four-club transfer from Partner, and no heart cue bid from the opponents, Piekarek, North, led the eight of hearts! That was a rapid one down, minus 50.

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------------|--------|-------------------|------------|
| Kirmse | Bessis | Gromöller | Faigenbaum |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 2 ♣ | Pass | 2 ♦ ¹ | Pass |
| 2 ♥ ² | Pass | 2 ♠ ³ | Pass |
| 2 NT ⁴ | Pass | 3 ♣ ⁵ | Pass |
| 3 NT ⁶ | Pass | 4 NT ⁷ | Pass |
| 5 ♥ ⁸ | Pass | 6 ♦ ⁹ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. Neutral
2. Heart or balanced, puppet to two spades
3. Forced
4. Balanced 20-21
5. Puppet Stayman
6. No 4- or 5-card major
7. Quantitative
8. Accepting, with two aces
9. Offering a choice of slams

The Kokish-style auction eventually uncovered the diamond fit, and South led the jack of clubs, at a cost of 14 IMPs.

I have saved the best till last. Thomas Bessis won an IPBA award in 2007 (Brazilian Junior Deal of the Year) and with the following deal, he staked an early claim for 2008.

Dealer West. EW Vul.

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| ♠ A 9 3 | ♠ K J 8 7 4 |
| ♥ 8 4 2 | ♥ K J 7 |
| ♦ A 10 5 3 | ♦ 2 |
| ♣ 10 8 2 | ♣ 9 5 4 3 |
| ♠ 10 5 2 | ♠ Q 6 |
| ♥ A 10 6 | ♥ Q 9 5 3 |
| ♦ K 6 | ♦ Q J 9 8 7 4 |
| ♣ A K Q J 6 | ♣ 7 |

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|----------|------------------|--------|
| Quantin | Piekarek | Bompis | Gotard |
| 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♣ ¹ | Pass |
| 2 ♦ ² | Pass | 2 ♠ ³ | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

1. Stayman
2. No 4-card major
3. Invitational, natural

South led his singleton club and declarer won with dummy's ace and played the two of spades to the jack and queen. South, who could not be sure his partner held the ace of spades switched to the queen of diamonds and when that held the trick he tried the four of diamonds. Declarer ruffed, knocked out the ace of spades and claimed when South could not ruff the club return, plus 620.

| West | North | East | South |
|--------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Kirmse | Bessis | Gromöller | Faigenbaum |
| 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 2 NT | Pass | 3 ♦ | Double |
| 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Play started in an identical fashion at this table, but when declarer once again withheld the king of diamonds, North, Bessis, literally rose to the occasion by overtaking with the ace and giving his partner the all-important club ruff to ensure one down and 12 IMPs.

The results:

1. ITALY (Parioli Tennis Club Angelini) - Ercole Bove (npc), Francesco Angelini, Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria, Dano De Falco, Fulvio Fantoni and Claudio Nunes
2. POLAND (Sygnity AZSWroclaw Polytechnic Club) - Cesary Balicki, Alexander Dubinin, Andrei Gromov, Wojciech Olanski, Wlodzimierz Starkowski, Adam Zmudzinski, Stanislaw Golebiowski (npc) and Tomasz Sielicki (coach)
3. GERMANY (Bamberg Reiter) - Michael Elinescu, Tomasz Gotard, Andreas Kirmse, Josef Piekarek, Entschow Wladow and Michael Gromöller(pc)

LEDERER MEMORIAL TROPHY 2007

Simon Cochemé, London

The 61st contest for the Lederer Memorial Trophy was held at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club on October 20-21, 2007. The eight invited teams (seven of them current holders of English, British or European titles) played 12-board matches against each other, with Victory Point scoring (part IMPs and part point-a-board).

The position on Saturday night, after four of the seven matches, was that the Schapiro Spring Foursomes Winners were on 161 VPs, just ahead of two-time winners Republic of Ireland on 159, and some way ahead of the President's Team on 125 and the Tollemache winners (Gloucestershire) on 119.

The Spring Fours and Irish teams both won their first two matches on Sunday, but the Irish had done just enough to overtake the Spring Fours with one match to go. The two teams went head-to-head on VuGraph in the final match, with Ireland starting 3 VPs in front. An exciting set of boards, including three slams, kept the audience on the edge of their seats. The Schapiro Spring Foursomes won the match 40-20 and had regained the lead at the time that mattered most.

The leading positions were:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----|
| 1. | Schapiro Spring Foursomes | 274 |
| | Neil Rosen, Martin Jones, Andrew McIntosh, Gunnar Hallberg, David Price, Colin Simpson | |
| 2. | Ireland | 257 |
| | Tommy Garvey, David Bakhshi, Hugh McGann, Tom Hanlon | |
| 3. | President's Team | 234 |
| | Bernard Teltscher, Tony Priday, Willie Coyle, John Matheson, Victor Silverstone, Chris Dixon | |
| 4. | European Open Mixed Teams | 223 |
| | Jeremy Dhondy, Heather Dhondy, Lilo Poplilov, Matilda Poplilov | |

The prize for the Best Bid Hand went to Jeremy and Heather Dhondy.

Dealer North Neither Vul.

| | |
|---|--|
| ♠ J 6 ♥ 8 6 ♦ A K 8 6 4 2 ♣ A K 7 | ♠ 5 3 ♥ Q 5 4 ♦ J 10 9 5 ♣ 10 5 3 2 |
| ♠ K 8 7 4 ♥ A K 10 9 7 3 ♦ Q 3 ♣ 6 | ♠ A Q 10 9 2 ♥ J 2 ♦ 7 ♣ Q J 9 8 4 |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------------------|------|---------|
| -- | Jeremy | | Heather |
| 2 ♥ | 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | Double ¹ | Pass | 3 ♣ |
| Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

1. Extra values; commonly a 15-17 no trump

The Dhondys were one of only two pairs who bid to the excellent four-spade contract, most of the rest of the field playing in diamond part scores. Jeremy's double on the second round (where some would play a support double) showed extra values. West cashed two top hearts against Heather, and then switched to his singleton club. Heather won in dummy, finessed in spades and ended up with ten tricks.

At the other table where four spades was the final contract, the winners of the 2007 Schapiro Spring Foursomes were sitting East-West against the winners of the 2006 Gold Cup. The bidding went as follows:

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|-------------------|----------|------------------|
| Hallberg | Paterson | McIntosh | Short |
| — | 1 NT | Pass | 2 ♥ ¹ |
| Double | Pass ² | Pass | 3 ♣ |
| Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

1. Transfer to spades

2. Denies 3 or more spades

Jack Paterson opened an off-centre 14-16 one no trump and the Scottish pair reached four spades. Gunnar Hallberg led the king and ace of hearts and found that his partner had three cards in the suit. Knowing that East had nothing of use for the defence in the way of high cards, Hallberg led another heart at trick three, giving a worthless ruff and discard. Brian Short chose to trump with dummy's jack of spades and then took the spade finesse. Hallberg won and played a fourth heart. Andrew 'Tosh' McIntosh ruffed in with his lowly five of spades and this was enough to promote a trump trick for West.

Hallberg had played his partner for the doubleton nine of spades, in which case his line of continuing hearts twice would have had an excellent chance of beating the contract. With the way declarer played it, ruffing with the spade jack, East's spade five was good enough. Declarer could have recovered by playing the ace and queen of spades at tricks four and five, but this would have given up on East holding the doubleton king and might have cost the point-a-board element of the

scoring. This defence won Hallberg and McIntosh the prize for the Best Defended Hand.

The Young Chelsea has hosted the Lederer for the last 26 years. For the last seven years the team that has won the Young Chelsea Knockout has been invited to play in the Lederer. Norman Selway was a regular competitor in the Lederer in the late 80s, and won the event in 1985. He was drafted into the Young Chelsea team as a late substitute when one of the original members of the team, not expecting to win the Knockout, foolishly booked a holiday that clashed with the Lederer!

Dealer West. Both Vul.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ 5 ♥ K J 7 5 ♦ A 6 5 4 ♣ A K 10 8</p> <p>♠ A Q J 8 7 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q 10 7 ♣ Q 3</p> <p>♠ K 10 9 4 ♥ A Q 8 3 ♦ J 8 ♣ 5 4 2</p> | <p>♠ 6 3 ♥ 10 6 2 ♦ K 9 3 2 ♣ J 9 7 6</p> |
|---|---|

| West | North | East | South |
|----------|--------|-------|--------|
| Matheson | Vail | Coyle | Selway |
| 1 ♠ | Double | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

A straightforward auction saw Selway become declarer in four hearts. John Matheson, playing for the President's team (Bernard Teltscher is President of the London Metropolitan Bridge Association and sponsor of the Lederer), led a trump to the ten and queen. Selway played the diamond jack. West covered with the queen (he does no better if he ducks) and was allowed to win the trick. He played back his second heart. Selway won in dummy, relying on three-two hearts on the lead and the bidding. He cashed his ace of diamonds and ruffed his two diamond losers, using a top club to get back to dummy. He crossed back to dummy with the other top club and drew the last trump.

Now he played a spade to the ten. Matheson won and played the spade ace. Selway declined to ruff with dummy's last trump and threw a club instead. He could now make the last two tricks and his contract. This play won Selway the prize for the Best Played Hand.

The bidding and opening lead were the same at the other table in this match, but declarer did not play on diamonds and ended up two down. Elsewhere the other two declarers in four hearts went one and two down. Three of the other four pairs bid to three no trump and all failed to make their contracts. The eighth declarer played in two hearts and made nine tricks.

LEDERER ENCORE

David Bird, Eastleigh, UK
(From the Mail on Sunday)

Dealer North. Both Vul.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>♠ — ♥ Q J 9 3 2 ♦ K 9 7 4 ♣ Q J 7 5</p> | <p>♠ K 10 8 7 5 2 ♥ 8 5 4 ♦ A 5 2 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 3 ♥ — ♦ Q J 8 3 ♣ A K 10 9 4</p> |
|--|---|

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Chamberlain | McIntosh | Stanley | Hallberg |
| — | 1 ♥ | 1 ♠ | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass | 3 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

The deal comes from the 2007 Lederer Trophy, contested at the Young Chelsea Club in London. Once again the organiser, Simon Cochemé, assembled a strong field although there were fewer foreign players than usual due to the proximity of the World Championships in Shanghai. On this deal Gunnar Hallberg arrived in three no trump. A diamond was led to East's ace and a diamond returned to West's king. How would you play the contract when West continues with a third round of diamonds?

Hallberg now had two winners in each of the suits outside spades. If he could add three spade tricks, this would bring his total to nine. It was not attractive to lead a spade to the ace, since this was the only entry to the two heart winners. (If declarer were to cash the ace-king of hearts before playing a second spade, East would be able to rise with the spade king and cross to his partner's hearts.) Hallberg preferred to run the queen of spades. If East wins with the spade king, declarer can capture the return and cross to the ace of spades. After scoring the ace-king of hearts, he can then finesse the nine of spades. Keith Stanley cleverly prevented this line by refusing to take the spade king! What now?

Hallberg continued with ace and another spade, abandoning the heart winners in dummy. East won the third round of spades with the king and exited with a spade. Hallberg won and cashed his last diamond, followed by the ace of clubs and a low club. West won with the jack of clubs but found that he was endplayed. A club return would be into the king-ten-nine, allowing declarer to score four club tricks. A heart return would bring dummy's ace-king back to life. Nine tricks either way. Well defended and well played!

IBPA COLUMN SERVICE

Tim Bourke, Canberra

Members may use these deals as they wish, without attributing the author or IBPA.

413. Dealer South. Both Vul.

| | |
|--|--|
| ♠ K 3 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ A 10 9 8 2 ♣ 7 4 3 ♠ Q J 10 8 4 2 ♥ A 8 ♦ 5 3 ♣ A 10 6 | ♠ 9 7 6 5 ♥ 3 2 ♦ K 7 6 4 ♣ Q J 9 ♠ A ♥ K Q J 9 7 6 ♦ Q J ♣ K 8 5 2 |
|--|--|

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 1 ♥ |
| 1 ♠ | 2 ♥ | 2 ♠ | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

While South was a little exuberant in the bidding, he made up for it with accurate card play.

When West led the queen of spades, declarer decided to play that player for the ace of trumps. So, after winning the ace of spades he led the king of trumps, taken by West with his ace. When West exited with a diamond, declarer rose with the dummy's ace and threw his remaining diamond on dummy's king of spades.

Needing to keep the heart ten as an entry to the dummy's diamonds, declarer next ran the ten of diamonds when East played low, throwing a club from hand. East also played a low diamond on the nine of diamonds while declarer threw another club.

While West was able to ruff the nine of diamonds, he had only black cards remaining. Consequently he had the unhappy choice of leading away from his ace of clubs or conceding a ruff-and-discard. Either way, declarer had ten tricks.

414. Dealer South. Both Vul.

| | |
|---|---|
| ♠ K 5 2 ♥ J 9 6 ♦ 8 6 4 2 ♣ 7 4 3 ♠ J 7 ♥ Q 8 4 3 2 ♦ 9 3 ♣ K J 10 5 | ♠ 10 9 6 4 3 ♥ A 7 ♦ K 7 5 ♣ 9 8 2 ♠ A Q 8 ♥ K 10 5 ♦ A Q J 10 ♣ A Q 6 |
|---|---|

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 2 ♣ |
| Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

West's lead of the three of hearts was taken by East's ace and declarer followed with the five of hearts. The seven of hearts was returned and covered by the ten and West's queen. A third round of hearts to declarer's king cleared the suit. Next he crossed to the king of spades and took the winning diamond finesse. As the king of diamonds did not fall under declarer's ace, he had to concede a trick to East, who returned a spade. All declarer could do was cash his three remaining winners for a total of eight tricks.

"There was nothing I could do," was all declarer could offer, "it was just too thin a contract."

As is often the case, dummy was unsympathetic – is there any other kind of dummy? "You should drop the king of hearts at trick one. This will guarantee two entries to dummy for **two** diamond finesses and so you will make three spades, a heart, four diamonds and a club – a total of nine."

"Even if East shifts to the nine of clubs at trick two, you can still make the contract as long as you rise with the ace. Next you lead a heart, establishing your second entry to dummy. Since West will win the trick, your queen of clubs is safe. So you will have the two entries to dummy required to pick up four tricks in diamonds."

Not content with this, East had the last word on the deal, observing that a spade lead would defeat the contract!

415. Dealer South. Both Vul.

| | |
|--|--|
| ♠ Q 10 9 8 4 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ J ♣ J 9 7 6 ♠ 7 3 ♥ J 9 8 5 ♦ 5 4 2 ♣ Q 10 8 3 | ♠ A 6 5 2 ♥ A 7 3 ♦ Q 10 9 8 3 ♣ 4 ♠ K J ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ A K 7 6 ♣ A K 5 2 |
|--|--|

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | — | 2 NT |
| Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

This is a very simple deal, with a theme similar to the previous one.

West leads the three of clubs and East follows with the four. Declarer saw that clubs were the only possibility for a late entry to dummy. So he took the trick with the ace of clubs and attacked spades by leading the king of spades. When this held, he led the jack of spades and overtook with dummy's queen. However, as West had signalled that he held a doubleton in spades, East took the trick with his ace of spades and shifted to the queen of diamonds.

Declarer took this with the ace, cashed the king of clubs and led a low club towards dummy. No matter how West played, declarer would take four spades, two diamonds and three clubs – all that was required to make the contract.

Notice that if declarer had carelessly played low from hand at trick one the defence would prevail. East would win the second spade and lead the queen of diamonds. Then, no matter how declarer wriggled, the defenders would deny him an entry to dummy. Eventually, he would lose at least five tricks.

416. Dealer East. Both Vul.

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--|
| | ♠ Q J 9 8 4 | | |
| | ♥ A Q 4 3 | | |
| | ♦ 4 | | |
| | ♣ A K J | | |
| ♠ 10 6 3 | | ♠ — | |
| ♥ 8 | | ♥ K J 10 9 6 2 | |
| ♦ 10 9 8 5 3 | | ♦ K 7 6 2 | |
| ♣ 10 9 8 4 | | ♣ Q 7 3 | |
| | ♠ A K 7 5 2 | | |
| | ♥ 7 5 | | |
| | ♦ A Q J | | |
| | ♣ 6 5 2 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| — | — | 2 ♥ | 2 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♣ |
| Pass | 5 NT | Pass | 6 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

Once South overcalled East's weak two-bid in hearts, North was happy to bid at least a small slam. So he enquired about key cards with four no trump and subsided when South denied a side-suit king with his bid of six spades.

West led the eight of hearts and declarer found a neat solution to avoid a second loser. He rose with the ace of hearts, drew trumps and cashed the ace of diamonds.

Then he ducked a heart to East, who found himself end-played.

If East plays a third round of hearts - either the king or a low heart - declarer will have a discard on the heart queen for one of his low clubs. If instead he plays a diamond, your queen-jack will be good for a trick whichever defender holds the king of diamonds. East's only remaining alternative is to exit with a club which will solve the problem of a loser in clubs.

BIARRITZ ÉLÉGANCE

Jan van Cleeff, Amsterdam

This deal, from Hervé Pacault, is by Pierre Saporta, one of France's best professionals, and is from the 2007 Biarritz Open Pairs. It was originally published in IMP bridge magazine in its Summer 2007 issue.

Dealer East. Neither Vul.

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|--|
| | ♠ 10 9 7 5 4 | | |
| | ♥ 7 | | |
| | ♦ 10 6 2 | | |
| | ♣ K 10 9 3 | | |
| ♠ J 8 3 | | ♠ A K Q 6 2 | |
| ♥ K 9 6 5 3 | | ♥ Q J 4 | |
| ♦ 5 | | ♦ A 9 | |
| ♣ Q 8 5 2 | | ♣ J 7 6 | |
| | ♠ -- | | |
| | ♥ A 10 8 2 | | |
| | ♦ K Q J 8 7 4 3 | | |
| | ♣ A 4 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|------|---------|--------|---------|
| — | Cabanes | | Saporta |
| — | — | 1 ♠ | 2 ♦ |
| 2 ♠ | Pass | 2 NT | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 5 ♦ | Double | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

The majority of the field made five diamonds on a spade lead. Against Pierre Saporta's five diamonds doubled, however, West led an annoying trump. East won the ace and continued the suit. From the bidding and play to the first two tricks, Saporta reasoned that East was likely to have a 5=3=2=3 shape. He therefore found an elegant route to eleven tricks. Saporta won trick two in dummy and ran the club ten. West won the queen, but declarer was home. He ruffed the spade continuation, cashed the club ace and heart ace, ruffed a heart, then pitched his two remaining heart losers on the king and nine of clubs. (*One wonders what Saporta would have done had East covered the club ten with the jack, an admittedly impossible play.* - Ed.)

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

John Carruthers, Toronto

RR21. Board 24. Dealer West. Neither Vul.

♠ A K J 8
♥ A
♦ K Q 7 6 4 2
♣ 8 3

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| ♠ 10 6 2 | ♠ 9 4 |
| ♥ Q 10 7 5 2 | ♥ K J 8 4 |
| ♦ A 10 3 | ♦ J 5 |
| ♣ A 10 | ♣ K Q J 9 4 |

♠ Q 7 5 3
♥ 9 6 3
♦ 9 8
♣ 7 6 5 2

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>John Carroll</i> | <i>Rashid Jaffer</i> | <i>Tommy Garvey</i> | <i>Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan</i> |
| 1 ♥ | 2 ♦ | 4 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Double | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

John Carroll of Ireland says, "I've never seen a 10 count I didn't like." That much is obvious from his opening bid of one heart on this deal from the Irish match against Pakistan in the 2007 Bermuda Bowl in Shanghai. In Carroll's defence, he and Tommy Garvey play a Swedish two-way one club opening, forcing for one round, showing either 10-13 HCP in a balanced hand or any hand of 17+ HCP. The 10-13 option inhibits the random interventions with which opponents plague strong club bidders.

Four spades looks ironclad. However, watch the Irish stars in action, creating a swing from thin air.

Carroll started with the ace and ten of clubs. Garvey overtook and continued with a third round of the suit, forcing dummy to ruff as West discarded a heart. Declarer now cashed two rounds of trumps, then played the diamond king. This was ducked by West with the ten!

Declarer can make the hand easily by continuing with a trump to hand and following with a diamond to the queen, or by leading the diamond queen from dummy. However, the play of the ten was enough to convince him that West held either ace-ten or ace-jack-ten in the suit. Accordingly, he continued with a small diamond, which Garvey won with the jack.

Upon winning the diamond jack, Garvey had the wit to continue with yet another round of clubs, forcing dummy to ruff again, and enabling Carroll to discard the diamond ace! Now declarer couldn't get off dummy without promoting Carroll's spade ten into the setting trick.

Pakistan was the only team of the 22 in the event to reach four spades and they were about to be rewarded for their efforts with a game swing before Carroll's imaginative defence. Instead, Ireland won 4 IMPs as their teammates played two diamonds making three at the other table.



VENICE CUP

The usual suspects were expected to do well in the Venice Cup – with the winner touted to come from the USA, France, Germany, Netherlands, England or China. No one else was given much of a chance. The favourites were USA I and France, each with three solid pairs, but a home win for China would surprise no one.

Here are some of the more interesting deals from that event.

Not Much Help Barry Rigal

Some declarers on the following deal brought home ten tricks after a defensive error. Debbie Rosenberg for USAI made her game with very little help from the defence.

RR5. Board 13. Dealer North. Both Vul.

♠ J 4 2
♥ A K J 10 7 3
♦ A 5 2
♣ 7

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| ♠ K 9 | ♠ A 8 7 6 |
| ♥ 9 4 2 | ♥ 6 5 |
| ♦ K 10 6 3 | ♦ J 4 |
| ♣ K 9 8 2 | ♣ Q J 10 6 4 |

♠ Q 10 5 3
♥ Q 8
♦ Q 9 8 7
♣ A 5 3

| West | North | East | South |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Travis</i> | <i>Rosenberg</i> | <i>Havas</i> | <i>Stansby</i> |
| — | 1 ♥ | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

In the match between Australia and USAI in the Venice Cup, Debbie Rosenberg as North won the lead of the club queen. Yes, a low spade lead would have done the trick, but God (or the dealing programme) had dealt East what looked like a better alternative and Rosenberg

drew trumps in three rounds (carefully pitching a diamond from dummy as East threw a club).

Then declarer advanced the spade jack. West won the king and played a top club. Rosenberg ruffed, led a spade to the ten, ruffed a club - that was why it was necessary to keep a third club on the board - and played a spade to East's ace as West pitched a diamond, to reach this ending:

| | |
|----------|---------|
| ♠ — | ♠ 8 |
| ♥ 7 | ♥ — |
| ♦ A 5 2 | ♦ J 4 |
| ♣ — | ♣ J |
| ♠ — | ♠ 10 |
| ♥ — | ♥ — |
| ♦ K 10 6 | ♦ Q 9 8 |
| ♣ 8 | ♣ — |

When East exited with a club, Rosenberg ruffed and decided to play West for the king of diamonds. So she pitched the winning spade from dummy and led a diamond to the four, eight and ten, end-playing West to lead a diamond round to the queen for her contract. That was 10 IMPs to USA1 against the 140 recorded at the other table.

France versus Denmark Phillip Alder

RR1 I. Board 27. Dealer South. Neither Vul.

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| ♠ 7 4 3 2 | ♠ K J 10 9 |
| ♥ A K 4 3 2 | ♥ 10 7 5 |
| ♦ A 7 | ♦ J 10 4 |
| ♣ J 2 | ♣ K 10 8 |
| ♠ 8 | ♠ A Q 6 5 |
| ♥ Q J 9 8 6 | ♥ — |
| ♦ K 9 | ♦ Q 8 6 5 3 2 |
| ♣ A 6 5 4 3 | ♣ Q 9 7 |

Open Room

| West <i>Rahelt</i> | North <i>d'Ovidio</i> | East <i>Farholt</i> | South <i>Gaviard</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 1 ♥ | Pass | 1 ♠ | 2 ♦ |
| Pass | 2 ♥ | 3 ♥ | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

Closed Room

| West <i>Willard</i> | North <i>Bekkouche</i> | East <i>Cronier</i> | South <i>Binderkrantz</i> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| — | — | — | Pass |
| Pass | 1 ♥ | Pass | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 2 ♠ | Pass | 2 NT ¹ |
| Pass | 3 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♠ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

1. Artificial inquiry

In the Closed Room, Binderkrantz bid four spades once she found out that they had a 4-4 spade fit. West led the heart queen and the way the cards lay, declarer had no chance. She took the top two hearts, discarding clubs, then took the spade finesse and cashed the ace. A diamond to the ace and a heart ruff were her last tricks. A club to the king allowed East to pull the remaining trumps, and West had the diamond king and club and heart winners for down four.

In the Open Room, East's one-spade response (instead of two hearts) picked off her opponents' suit. So d'Ovidio and Gaviard drove into three no trump. After East led the heart seven and West put up her jack, how should North have planned the play?

Assuming the spade finesse is working, North has two spades and two hearts. In that case, five diamond tricks would see her home. But playing the ace and another diamond would make transportation a problem.

D'Ovidio saw the right answer: at trick two, she ducked a diamond. Then she could win the heart continuation, cash the diamond ace, dropping the king, take the spade finesse, and run for home. Nicely played. Plus 200 and plus 400 gave France 12 IMPs.

Interlude

You may get to see a deal where declarer had to drop a singleton king of clubs offside to make seven clubs. Paul Chemla told Sabine Auken that he had noticed a neat defensive possibility. If the defence start with the jack of hearts dummy will put up the queen from queen-six and if the defender holding king-eight-four-three declines to cover, declarer will be able to take a losing finesse. Impressed, Sabine asked if anyone had found the play. "No," said Paul, "I wasn't playing." (*It is the play Michelle Brunner found and was reported in last month's Bulletin. - Ed.*)

SENIOR BOWL

The Senior Bowl was considered to be the widest open of any of the three concurrent championships. About half the field had a chance to win. Nevertheless, the two USA teams had to be considered co-favourites – USA2 had 19 world titles among them. USA1 had 15 world titles; 11 of those were Bobby Wolff's.

Keep Your Eye on The Ball Jim Gordon

Beginners at all forms of games are constantly reminded to keep their eye on the ball. Three leading players from the semifinals of the Senior Bowl could have used a timely reminder on the following deal from the semifinals.

SF1. Board 4. Dealer West. Both Vul.

| | |
|--|---|
| ♠ J ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ K 9 7 4 ♣ K J 9 5 | ♠ A Q 9 6 5 2 ♥ 10 8 ♦ A Q ♣ A 8 3 |
| ♠ K 8 3 ♥ A K Q 4 3 2 ♦ 10 6 ♣ Q 10 | ♠ 10 7 4 ♥ J ♦ J 8 5 3 2 ♣ 7 6 4 2 |

| West | North | East | South |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Stansby</i> | <i>Smith</i> | <i>Bramley</i> | <i>Kasle</i> |
| 1 ♥ | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass |
| 2 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♣ | Pass |
| 4 ♠ | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 5 ♥ | Pass | 5 NT | Pass |
| 7 ♦ | Pass | 7 ♠ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

The above USA2 auction versus USA1 was one of the three in any of the six semifinal matches in the three championships to reach the best grand slam. Both tables in the Brazil versus Indonesia match of the Senior Bowl also reached seven spades. The other USA semifinal table reached six spades.

Three tables in the Bermuda Bowl reached six spades; the other reached seven hearts. In the Venice Cup, seven hearts, six spades and four hearts (twice) were the contracts.

Both seven heart contracts made on a trump lead where a spade lead would have beaten them.

Seven spades was a more interesting contract. At both Indonesia-Brazil tables, the contract failed when the declarers (Munawar Sawiruddin and Pedro Paulo Branco, on a heart and spade lead respectively) cashed the ace-queen of spades, then tried to cash two hearts unsuccessfully before drawing the third trump. Down one for a push. The declarers probably looked at the double-dummy analysis on the hand records and scoffed at the idea that anyone would find the winning line.

Our almost-hero, Bart Bramley, however, was on his way to solving the deal, but stumbled at the last hurdle. The opening lead was the club seven to the ten, jack and ace. Since the opponents didn't seem to be ready

to concede the contract, the first question was how best to guard against bad splits in the major suits. Since 4-0 trumps was a possibility, so Bramley started spades by playing the five to the king (This allows declarer to pick up four trumps in the North hand. If trumps are 2-2, the contract is cold against any 4-1 heart layout, but declarer must keep a trump entry to dummy.)

After finding out that trumps were 3-1, declarer wisely ran the rest of the trumps before playing on hearts. From the lead and the play to the first trick, he was reasonably sure of the layout of the club suit. If North also held four hearts perhaps he could be squeezed if there were two diamond tricks.

Declarer pitched a heart, a diamond and the queen of clubs from dummy. North pitched his two low clubs and three low diamonds. The end position was:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ♠ — ♥ A K Q 4 3 ♦ 10 ♣ — | ♠ — ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ K ♣ K |
| ♠ — ♥ J ♦ J 8 5 ♣ 6 4 | ♠ — ♥ 10 8 ♦ A Q ♣ 8 3 |

When Bramley now played the eight of hearts to the ace, fetching the jack from South, he had to play the diamond from dummy to make the contract, North being squeezed on the diamond queen! Unfortunately, declarer played a second heart, going down.

TRANSNATIONAL TEAMS

Mark Horton, London

The 2007 Transnational Teams final was over 48 boards and with the Bermuda Bowl virtually decided in Norway's favour, the tournament organisers made the inspired decision to put the last session on VuGraph.

Board 47. Dealer South. NS Vul.

| | |
|--|---|
| ♠ 9 7 6 2 ♥ J 8 5 4 ♦ 8 3 ♣ K 8 5 | ♠ J ♥ A K Q 10 2 ♦ A K 10 7 6 ♣ Q 10 |
| ♠ K Q 8 5 ♥ 9 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ A J 4 3 2 | ♠ A 10 4 3 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ 9 4 2 ♣ 9 7 6 |

Open Room

| West | North | East | South |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Balicki</i> | <i>Nunes</i> | <i>Zmudzinski</i> | <i>Fantoni</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 2 ♣ | Pass | 2 \diamond^1 | Pass |
| 2 \heartsuit^2 | Pass | 2 \spadesuit^1 | Pass |
| 3 \spadesuit^3 | Pass | 4 \spadesuit^4 | Pass |
| 5 \clubsuit^5 | Pass | 6 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

1. Relay
2. Either 4-card major
3. Precisely 4-1-3-5
4. Roman Key Card ask in diamonds
5. 1 or 4 key cards

Zimmermann (Switzerland-France-Italy) led a Russian-Polish team by 88-62, but Russia-Poland picked up a few bits and pieces, and with two deals to play they were within striking distance.

After this complex auction based on an amalgam of Sontag-Weichsel Precision and the Slawinski Forcing Pass system, South led a seven - but it was in hearts, and declarer knocked out the ace of spades for plus 990.

Closed Room

| West | North | East | South |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <i>T Bessis</i> | <i>Dubin</i> | <i>M Bessis</i> | <i>Gromov</i> |
| — | — | — | Pass |
| 1 ♣ | Pass | 1 \heartsuit | Pass |
| 1 \spadesuit | Pass | 3 \diamond | Pass |
| 3 NT | Pass | 4 \diamond | Pass |
| 4 \spadesuit | Pass | 4 NT | Pass |
| 5 \diamond | Pass | 6 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

This time North was on lead and he found the brilliant shot of the eight of hearts! Declarer won in dummy, cashed a second heart, discarding a club, and played the jack of spades. South won and switched to a club and declarer's goose was cooked, down one, minus 50 and 14 IMPs to Russia-Poland, giving them the lead with only one deal to go!

However, 8 IMPs went the other way on the final board to make **Zimmermann** the new Transnational Teams Champions (Pierre Zimmermann, Switzerland, Thomas Bessis-Michel Bessis, France and Fulvio Fantoni-Claudio Nunes, Italy).

COMPUTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Al Levy, New York

The first bridge world championship to be decided in Shanghai did not involve humans. The Computer World Championship ended with WBridge5 from France defeating Bridge Baron 206-101 in the final.

The championship started with eight computer teams competing in a 32-board round robin to determine the four semifinalists. WBridge5 finished first in the round robin, winning all its matches except for a tie with Bridge Baron. WBridge5 was followed by Jack from the Netherlands, Bridge Baron from the USA and Q-Plus Bridge from Germany. Other competitors, in their order of finish, were Micro Bridge from Japan, Shark Bridge from Denmark, RoboBridge from the Netherlands and TUT Bridge from Tokyo University, Japan.

In the semifinals, WBridge5 defeated Q-Plus Bridge 278-165 and Bridge Baron overcame defending champion Jack, 190-153.

The following deal is from the semifinals.

Board 63. Dealer South. EW Vul.

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| | | ♠ A K J 8 7 | |
| | | ♥ Q 9 8 3 | |
| | | ♦ A 5 2 | |
| | | ♣ J | |
| ♠ Q 10 6 3 | ♠ 9 5 2 | | |
| ♥ A | ♥ 10 6 5 4 2 | | |
| ♦ J 10 9 4 | ♦ Q 6 | | |
| ♣ 7 6 4 3 | ♣ 10 5 2 | | |
| | ♠ 4 | | |
| | ♥ K J 7 | | |
| | ♦ K 8 7 3 | | |
| | ♣ A K Q 9 8 | | |

| West | North | East | South |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Jack</i> | <i>BB</i> | <i>Jack</i> | <i>BB</i> |
| — | — | — | 1 ♣ |
| Pass | 1 \spadesuit | Pass | 2 \diamond |
| Pass | 2 \heartsuit | Pass | 2 NT |
| Pass | 6 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

On the three of spades lead, Jack rose with the ace, hoping to get three heart tricks, two spades, two diamonds and five clubs. A low heart to the king went to the ace, and the diamond jack return was won by dummy's ace. The spade king and club jack were cashed, and a low heart to the jack revealed the 5-1 heart break.

After three more club winners, pitching two spades and a diamond from dummy, East was known to hold five hearts, three clubs, and at least three spades, so could not hold four diamonds and therefore there could not be a heart-diamond squeeze against East. There was no spade-heart squeeze against East even if it held the spade queen. That card had to be with West to make six no trump and Jack played accordingly, cashing the last club, pitching a heart from dummy. A heart to the queen squeezed West, who had to discard a diamond to protect the spade queen.

Congratulations to Yves Costel, developer of WBridge5. See Yves' website at www.wbridge5.com.

TIM SERES

April 1, 1925 - September 27, 2007
(from Denis Howard in *Australian Bridge*)

The simplest way to describe Tim's standing in the Australian bridge world is to quote Shakespeare: "He doth bstride the narrow world like a colossus". Unarguably so much better than anyone else, Tim was one of the huge natural talents that very occasionally surface in competitive endeavours. Don Bradman as a cricketer is a convenient analogy. Moreover, it was not simply a matter of being a big fish in a small pond. After appearing on the world stage, when he and Dick Cummings travelled to the UK and Europe in 1958, his reputation quickly spread and he was later to be described in the Encyclopaedia of Bridge as "one of the world's great players". Years of performance in world and Far East championships as the linchpin of Australian teams added lustre to his international reputation. Tim's contribution to Australian bridge was honoured a few years ago when he was awarded the Order Of Australia Medal.

If I were to list Tim's successes at all levels of bridge competition, we would be here for a very long time indeed. Enough to say that he was the peerless Tim Seres. But competition bridge was not his first love. He was above all a rubber bridge player par excellence. Here, a remarkable combination of skill, psychological insight and table presence ensured a winning path that continued right up to the time of his death, when he was 82 and in poor health. Back in the 1950s I would watch him play for hours – it was a fascinating experience. In 1958 he cut a swathe through the London rubber bridge scene, and so it continued. It must have been a pleasure to play against him, because the privilege did not come cheaply!

Tim, who was born in 1925 migrated to Australia from Hungary in 1947 with his brother, George, at the age of 22. His life had been severely dislocated in Hungary since the German occupation in 1944 and subsequent Russian takeover of that country and his survival experiences, often dangerous, of that period were to influence profoundly the course of his later life. His philosophy, to which he adhered unswervingly, was essentially to live on his own terms. He was an intelligent, courteous and perceptive man of considerable personal charm. Despite his pre-eminence, he was never arrogant or overbearing at the bridge table. The combination of these qualities meant that he was very popular in the Australian bridge community, which believe me, was no mean feat!

My sadness in the death of my great friend of over fifty years is mitigated by the knowledge that had he survived his last grave illness, he would no longer have been able to live his life on his own terms, which for Tim would have been no life at all.

...Correspondence - continued from page 15

Whether or not Weinstein's action was legal, I have no doubt that it was unsporting. He had a duty to his teammates to enforce the penalty. Bridge is a mental game, and a major part of that is concentration. There is no difference between what happens as a result of defensive error and what happened here: Cope lost concentration and made an error.

I cannot fathom why: (a) Weinstein should have wished to waive the penalty; or (b) anyone can conclude that this action constituted sportsmanship. I wonder what George Jacobs, the team sponsor, would have had to say had Weinstein's action caused the loss of the match?

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

(Whatever your views, we have confirmed that all of Weinstein's teammates, Jacobs included, have supported his action. – Ed.)

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NEWS & VIEWS

Joan Cohen

Joan Cohen of Memphis, Tennessee, died last month, a victim of a brain tumor. Her death followed by a little more than a year the death of her husband Ralph, a major figure in both World Bridge Federation and American Contract Bridge League affairs and an outstanding player in his own right.

Joan's son Billy is one of the top-ranked players in the ACBL. Every member of her family attained Life Master status - herself, Ralph, Billy and her other two sons, Jordan and Mitchell.

ACBL Announces Youth NABC

The inaugural Youth North American Bridge Championships will be held in Atlanta July 3-6, 2008 and will offer playing opportunities for young people and adults. For those families with only one bridge player, there are cultural, educational and recreational opportunities.

Single session events will be held twice a day. Two national titles will be on offer, the National Open Pairs, July 5, and the National Swiss Teams, July 6. Players must be 19 years of age or younger and have 5000 master points or less as of July 1, 2008.

NY Times on "Signgate"

The New York Times, among others, weighed in with its opinion on the "We did not vote for Bush" incident involving the USA Venice Cup-winning team.

The Nov 14 New York Times story, not in the regular bridge column: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/14/arts/14brid.html>

The Nov 15 New York Times Editorial is about bridge: [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/15/opinion/15thu4.html?n=Top/Reference/Times%20Topics/Subjects/B/Bridge%20\(Card%20Game\)](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/15/opinion/15thu4.html?n=Top/Reference/Times%20Topics/Subjects/B/Bridge%20(Card%20Game))

Bergen Tournament Announcement

Kirsten Rita Arnesen writes: Another year has passed and Bergen will once more be the centre of Bridge the weekend of January 18-20, 2008. BBO commentators will be scrutinizing every move at the table.

Bergen Akademisk BK are hosting this tournament for the 26th time. Here is the link http://nbfdata.bridge.no/turneringer/pameld_detaljer.asp?ID_turnering=1411

The Tournament site is <http://www.storturningingen.no/> and Club site <http://bridge.no/1411/>

The Venue for the second time is the Grand Hotel Terminus <http://www.grand-hotel-terminus.no/CDA/homepg.aspx>

The hotel atmosphere and amenities were a great success last year, as was the Pro-Am tournament.

New School Bridge League Press Release

Welcome to School Bridge LEAGUE, a division of The LEAGUE, a unique learning experience for young people that promotes critical thinking, analytical and communication skills and team-building. The game of Bridge gives students the confidence to address issues in their communities with logical and useful solutions. These skills also allow students to participate in School Bridge LEAGUE tournaments, form school bridge teams and grow within the School Bridge LEAGUE community. School Bridge LEAGUE as a division of The LEAGUE also equips our youth with the resources to make a positive impact in their communities by providing them with the critical thinking and team-building skills needed to make this happen.

Within School Bridge LEAGUE students compete based on their level of experience, from beginners (those who have been playing less than six months) to advanced (those that have been playing more than two years). Students can also compete in the Mini-Bridge division, which does not include the bidding process, so any student, even the most recent to the game of Bridge, can compete. Participants of School Bridge LEAGUE gain experience in developing vital analytical and communication skills and also have opportunities to win exclusive prizes such as JetBlue Airways tickets (a national sponsor of The LEAGUE) and participate in live tournaments!

School Bridge LEAGUE will host the following four tournaments:

Halloween Tournament Oct 27-Nov 9

Winter Holiday Tournament Dec 8-14

Valentine's Day Tournament Feb 4-16

End of Year/ Spring Tournament Apr 28-May 10.

If you are interested in exposing your students to this wonderful experience join us. Please contact us at schoolbridgeleague@leagueworldwide.org

Scientists v Naturalists III

A bridge game between "Naturalists" and "Scientists" took place in London on November 1st and 2nd. The "Scientists" team was Zia Mahmood, Andrew Robson, Boye Brogeland, Gunnar Hallberg and David Gold. The Portland Club's "Naturalists" were Dimitri Marchessini, Giles Hargreave, Patrick Lawrence and David Wolfson. The scores were: Thursday - Scientists +78 IMPs; Friday - Scientists +58 rubber points.



Correspondence ...

The Editor reserves the right to abridge and/or edit correspondence

Email: ibpaeditor@sympatico.ca

Dear John,

We are updating our mailing lists ... If you are on our email Press List you will have received a Press Release about the World Championships quite recently. But if you have NOT received anything and would like to receive future Press Releases, please email anna@ecats.co.uk with your name, your country and your email address and request that I add you to our Bridge Press List.

Anna Gudge, WBF Liaison Officer, Sudbury, UK

John,

On looking at the list of participants in the World Championships, I was struck by the fact that ten countries (plus the host, China) were participating in all three events. These countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA (which has two teams in each event). None of these countries is in Europe.

It is high time that the World Championships were reorganised so as not to unduly favour certain countries by reason of the fact that their zonal competitions are relatively weak.

Richard Fleet, Berkhamsted, UK

(Others such as David Stern argue for representation along membership lines. Although we have our own views as well, we believe the WBF does a good job balancing the needs of all parties. – Ed.)

Dear John,

May I call your attention to a few misspellings in the names of new members? "Buchelev" should be Buchlev (and the first name is wrong as well), "von Arneim" should be von Arnim. (And she is a woman so the forename "Danny" might be misleading. Her proper name is Daniela and she is called "Dany".) I don't know M. Akeroyd but it looks wrong. The name is generally spelled without the "e", (but this might be an exception.

Ciao, Jeff Easterson, Berlin

(Yes, our apologies to you new members. We should have caught those. – Ed.)

Dear John,

We have produced an Information Fact Sheet for the 1st World Mind Sport Games and World Junior Championships. This is an important document, containing information about:

- The National Open & Women's Teams Championships

- The WMSG Youth Teams, Pairs and Individual Championships (under 28)
- The Seniors International Cup
- The World Transnational Mixed Teams Championship
- The World Junior Teams – the Ortiz-Patiño Trophy (under 26) and the Damiani Cup (under 21)

The Fact Sheet gives details of all these events, including information about the free accommodation and food that will be provided for the players in the WMSG Youth events, the World Junior Teams and also for the players in the Women's teams and possibly the Open Teams PROVIDED the NBO sends a team or pair to the WMSG Youth events.

If they don't have the Fact Sheet, members can email me and I will send them a copy by email. anna@ecats.co.uk

Please use this to publicise the event – especially the World Transnational Mixed Teams – in your country and also to encourage your NBO to send a team to the World Mind Sport Games Youth Teams Championship as well as to the Open, Women's and Senior Teams.

For more information, please see the WBF Website at www.worldbridge.org and the ECatsBridge website at www.ecatsbridge.com

Kind regards, Anna Gudge, WBF Liaison, Sudbury, UK

John,

I do not accept that Howard Weinstein's action as reported in the Shanghai Daily Bulletin No. 13 constituted an act of sportsmanship. *(In their semifinal against South Africa, Weinstein accepted some responsibility for an opponent's revoke after taking a very long time to declare a hand, and allowed the opponent to retract his card without penalty. – Ed.)* Rather, I think that what he did was unsporting and, if done without the Director being summoned, illegal.

An irregularity (i.e., Tim Cope's failing to follow suit) occurred to which attention was drawn. Law 9B1(a) requires that the Director be called. If Weinstein had said that, because of the slow tempo for which he was responsible, he did not wish for a penalty to be imposed, he was fully entitled to do that. But it is not his decision. It is entirely at the discretion of the Director.

Continued on page 13...

World Bridge Calendar

| DATES | EVENT | LOCATION | INFORMATION |
|---------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| 2007 | | | |
| Dec 1-9 | Festival Mar del Plata | Mar del Plata, Argentina | www.bridgeargentino.org.ar |
| Dec 7-9 | Città di Milano | Milan, Italy | www.federbridge.it |
| Dec 7-11 | 29 th ASEAN Club Championships | Makati, Philippines | www.scba.org.sg |
| Dec 8-9 | Gold Cup Finals | Peebles, Scotland | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Dec 8-14 | School Bridge League Winter Holiday Tournament - Online - | | schoolbridgeleague@leagueworldwide.org |
| Dec 14-16 | 2007 Winter Cup | Bucharest, Romania | dragosslesan@yahoo.com |
| Dec 21-23 | Junior Channel Trophy | Netherlands | www.ebu.co.uk |
| 2008 | | | |
| Jan 14-20 | 57 th Hawaii Regional | Honolulu, HI | www.acbl.org |
| Jan 14-28 | Summer Festival of Bridge | Canberra, Australia | www.abf.com.au |
| Jan 18-20 | Bergen International Tourbament | Bergen, Norway | www.storturningingen.no |
| Jan 26-2 | Bermuda Regional | Southampton, Bermuda | www.bermudaregional.com |
| Feb 1 | PABF Simultaneous Pairs | Clubs in Pacific Asia | www.scba.org.sg |
| Feb 1-6 | EBU Overseas Congress | Lanzarote, Spain | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Feb 4-16 | School Bridge League Valentine's Day Tournament - Online - | | schoolbridgeleague@leagueworldwide.org |
| Feb 5-11 | 12 th NEC Festival | Yokohama, Japan | www.jcbl.or.jp |
| Feb 12-17 | Festival des Jeux | Cannes, France | www.ffbridge.fr |
| Feb 13-17 | Yeh Bros. Cup | Kaohsiung, Taiwan | pat_hwang2002@yahoo.com.tw |
| Feb 13-17 | Icelandair Open | Reykjavik, Iceland | www.bridge.is |
| Feb 21-26 | Cairo Bridge Festival | Cairo, Egypt | www.egypt-bridge.org |
| Feb 22-24 | White House International Teams | Amsterdam, Netherlands | jycleeff@xs4all.nl |
| Feb 23-Mar 1 | Gold Coast Congress | Broadbeach, Australia | www.qldbridge.com/gcc |
| Mar 6-16 | ACBL Spring NABC | Detroit, MI | www.acbl.org |
| Mar 7 | PABF Simultaneous Pairs | Clubs in Pacific Asia | www.scba.org.sg |
| Mar 9-16 | White House Junior Internationals | Amsterdam, Netherlands | keestammens@email.com |
| Mar 18-23 | 113 th Canadian Nationals | Toronto, ON | www.toronto-bridge.com |
| Mar 30-31 | Isle of Man Congress | Isle of Man | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Apr 8-13 | Kitzbüheler Bridgewoche | Kitzbühl, Austria | www.bridgeaustria.at |
| Apr 28-May 10 | School Bridge League End of Year Spring Tournament - Online - | | schoolbridgeleague@leagueworldwide.org |
| Apr 30-May 1 | Bonn Nations Cup | Bonn, Germany | www.bridge-verband.de |
| May 1-9 | South Africa National Congress | Cape Town, South Africa | www.sabf.co.za |
| May 16-18 | 13 th Southern Regional | Port of Spain, Trinidad, WI | www.cacbf.com |
| May 23-Jun 1 | 10 th German Bridge Festival | Wyk auf Föhr, Germany | www.bridge-verband.de |
| Jun 6&7 | Worldwide Simultaneous Pairs | Clubs Worldwide | www.worldbridge.org |
| Jun 14-28 | 49 th European Championships | Pau, France | www.eurobridge.org |
| Jul 1-13 | Biarritz International Festival | Biarritz, France | www.biarritz-bridge.com |
| Jul 3-6 | 1 st Youth NABC | Atlanta, GA | www.acbl.org |
| Jul 17-27 | ACBL Summer NABC | Las Vegas, NV | www.acbl.org |
| Jul 26-Aug 3 | Chairman's Cup/XIV Festival | Jönköping, Sweden | www.svenskbridge.se |
| Aug 3-9 | Wachauer Bridgewoche | Loiben, Austria | www.bridgeaustria.at |
| Aug 8-17 | Summer Congress | Brighton, England | www.ebu.co.uk |
| Aug 29-Sep 7 | 6 th PABF Congress/1st Asian Cup | Surfer's Paradise, Australia | www.qldbridge.com |
| Sep 2-7 | 4 th World University Championships | Lodz, Poland | www.unibridge.org |
| Sep 27-Oct 5 | New Zealand National Congress | Hamilton, NZ | www.nzcba.co.nz |
| Oct 3-18 | 13 th World Bridge Games (was Olympiad) | Beijing, China | www.worldbridge.org |
| Oct 3-18 | World Mind Sports Games | Beijing, China | www.worldbridge.org |
| Oct 3-18 | 12 th World Youth Championships | Beijing, China | www.worldbridge.org |
| Oct 5-7 | Oltania Team Cup | Gura Vail, Romania | www.ecatsbridge.com |
| Oct 25-26 | 62 nd Lederer Memorial Trophy | London, England | www.metrobridge.co.uk |
| Nov 20-30 | ACBL Fall NABC | Boston, MA | www.acbl.org |
| Nov 24&26 | European Simultaneous Pairs | Clubs in Europe | www.ecatsbridge.com |
| Dec 19-21 | Junior Channel Trophy | Belgium | www.ebu.co.uk |